to meet the demand of the domestic consumers and LPG is being imported to meet the shortfall.

**Royalty on Crude Oil**

1159. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LAB-SHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the rates of royalty on crude oil for the period 1. 4. 87 to 31. 3. 90 and 1. 4. 90 to 31. 3. 1993;

(b) if so, whether this is an ad hoc revision pending fixation of intrinsic value of crude oil by an independent body; and

(c) what is the constitution and terms of reference of that independent body?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The Government have taken a decision to revise the rate of royalty on crude oil for the period on 1. 4. 87 to 31. 3. 90. The revised rate is Rs. 314j- per tonne.

(b) and (c) The revision of oil royalty from 1. 4. 87 to 1. 4. 90 is not an ad hoc revision. The Government have also decided to set up a Committee to examine the issue of fixation of rate of royalty for the period beyond 31. 3. 90.

The Committee which would have three members would have the following terms of reference: —

(1) To examine the various issues pertaining to revision in the rate of royalty on crude oil and §as> keeping in′ view:

(i) The need for large investments in the oil and gas sector to reduce the dependence on imports of oil and petroleum products in the coming decade.

(ii) present policy of total reliance on internal resource generation and non-availability of budgetary support for such investments;

(ui) principles followed in the revision in the rate of royalty for various other minerals;

(iv) augmentation of State revenues by way of sales tax and other taxes due to larger availability of oil and gas through increased investments in this sector and increased economic and industrial activity therefrom.

(v) submissions of the State Governments concerned; and

(vi) any other matter germane to the issue.

(2) To recommend specific principles for periodic revision in the rate of royalty so as to do away with the revision in the rate of royalty on *ad hoc* basis; and

(3) To suggest the periodicity for •revision in the rate of royalty, keeping in view the general recommendation of the Sarkaria commission on the subject.

**Securing replies of Special Mentions made in the Rajya Sabha**

1160. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFAFIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many Special Mention cases made by the Members of the Rajya Sabha during 1989-90 replies from the respective Ministries are yet to be received and what is the normal time taken by the Ministries to send replies to the members in such cases;

(b) whether any follow-up action is taken by his Ministry to secure replies to the members; and

(c) what steps are proposed to secure speedy replies to the members?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) During

the Calendar years 1989 and 1990, 865 Special Mentions were made in the Rajya Sabha out of which 548 matters have been replied to leaving a pendency of 317 as per the records of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The normal time-limit for sending replies to the Members is one month but in certain cases this time limit is not adhered to primarily because the information is required to be collected from various agencies including the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in its capacity as the coordinating agency has been sending demi-official reminders at the level of Secretary as well as Minister for expediting replies to the Members. Thi* will continue to be done in future also.

**Development Grant to the Pharmacy Colleges in Gujarat**

1161. SHRl JITENDRABHAI LA-BHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEL FARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for providing development grants by Central Government to the Pharmacy Colleges in the States:

(b) whether the Central Government have received any proposals for develop, ment grant in the year 1989-90 for Pharmacy Colleges in Gujarat State; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken on these pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHA-KEELUR REHMAN): (a) There is no scheme of Government of India for providing development grant to the Pharmacy Colleges in the States. However, in accordance with the existing practice, block grant is given by the Planning Commission for development of Technical Education including Primary education at State level within their overall plan allocation.

(b) No, Sir.

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(c) Does not arise.

**Delay in commissioning of oil projects**

1162. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LA-BHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minis-ter of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delays in commissioning of oil projects have increased the costs of the projects by several crores of rupees as reported in the Deccan Herald of 19th October, 1990; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken against such delays?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Out of the four projects mentioned in the report in Deccan Herald of 19th October, 1990 cost escalation has taken place in three projects *viz.* Development of Heera Phase-II, V-C-K Pipeline Project and Marketing Facilities for LPG (Ph- Ul). As far as Cambay basin Petroleum Development. Project is concerned, the cost has come down from the original sanctioned cost.

(b) The implementation of the sanctioned projects is monitored monthly at various levels and action is taken to remove the bottlenecks which are noticed. Quarterly Performance Review meetings are also held in the Department with the concerned companies to expedite implementation and avoid cost and time overrun.

**Construction of foot bridge at DVC Navigation Canal**

1163. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of foot bridge at Pandua over the